

ABSTRACT

Systems and methods for ensuring that control protocols can be used between Media Gateways **130**, **140** and Media Gateway Controllers **110** that reside on separate IP networks **120**, **150**. Network Address Translation (NAT) is strategically implemented to inspect and translate control protocol messages exchanged between nodes on separate IP networks. One method is to add NAT intelligence to a firewall/router **160** giving it the ability to inspect and translate the IP addresses within control protocol messages. Another method is to have a firewall/router **160** forward control protocol messages to a separate NAT server **170** to inspect and translate the IP addresses within control protocol messages. The former implementation places a significant amount of real-time work on the firewall/router which can affect its performance in its core duties. The latter implementation does not affect performance but requires deploying additional hardware.

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